

Message

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**From:** Lara, Rhina [Lara.Rhina@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 1/13/2022 5:58:00 PM  
**To:** Leifer, Kerry [Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov]; Aubee, Catherine [Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS INQUIRY: PFAS in Pesticides, Scientific American

Thanks so much, Kerry!

Best,  
**Rhina M. Lara** (*she/her/hers*)  
Communications Branch  
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Phone: (202) 815- 5722

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**From:** Leifer, Kerry <Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:41 AM  
**To:** Lara, Rhina <Lara.Rhina@epa.gov>; Aubee, Catherine <Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS INQUIRY: PFAS in Pesticides, Scientific American

Hi Lara,

I provided comment and suggested edits in the document.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kerry

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Kerry Leifer, Chief (he/him)  
Chemistry, Inerts and Toxicology Assessment Branch  
Registration Division (7505P)  
Office of Pesticide Programs  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20460  
tel: (202) 566-2812  
e-mail: [leifer.kerry@epa.gov](mailto:leifer.kerry@epa.gov)

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**From:** Lara, Rhina <[Lara.Rhina@epa.gov](mailto:Lara.Rhina@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:55 AM  
**To:** Leifer, Kerry <[Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov](mailto:Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov)>; Aubee, Catherine <[Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov](mailto:Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS INQUIRY: PFAS in Pesticides, Scientific American  
**Importance:** High

Hi Kerry,

Thanks for looking at this. We sent the responses to Rick for review and he had lots of comments. Could you please take a look at questions 1, 2, and 3 and see if there's anything we can add to clarify and answer Rick's comments? We are reaching our deadline for this response, so before noon would be ideal!

Best,  
**Rhina M. Lara** (*she/her/hers*)  
Communications Branch  
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Phone: (202) 815- 5722

---

**From:** Leifer, Kerry <Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:41 AM  
**To:** Lara, Rhina <Lara.Rhina@epa.gov>; Aubee, Catherine <Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS INQUIRY: PFAS in Pesticides, Scientific American

Hi Lara,

Regarding the EPA PFAS working definition--I am not sure about the registration status of tefluthrin, but it does **not** meet our working definition for PFAS. According to our records, the only active ingredients that **do** meet that definition are broflanilide (note typo in Question), and pyrifluquinazon.

Kerry


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**From:** Lara, Rhina <Lara.Rhina@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:45 PM  
**To:** Aubee, Catherine <Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Leifer, Kerry <Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS INQUIRY: PFAS in Pesticides, Scientific American  
**Importance:** High

Hi Catherine,

I think Kerry might be out, but I have a question from Mike on a press inquiry on PFAS in pesticides. He wants to know if we can answer the highlighted part of this question. Could you help me with answering? Here is the  [file](#).

**1) EPA's "working definition" for PFAS. Could this change? (Such as to what states like California, Massachusetts and Maine are using or considering: PFAS encompasses any chemical with "fully fluorinated carbon.") Pesticides like brofanalide, pyrifluquinazon and tefluthrin meet EPA's "working definition" of PFAS. What actions is EPA considering/planning to take to deal with such pesticides?**

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

# Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Best,  
**Rhina M. Lara** (*she/her/hers*)  
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Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention  
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Phone: (202) 815- 5722

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**From:** Leifer, Kerry <[Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov](mailto:Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 12:59 PM  
**To:** Lara, Rhina <[Lara.Rhina@epa.gov](mailto:Lara.Rhina@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS INQUIRY: PFAS in Pesticides, Scientific American

Hi Lara,

If the question is regarding currently-approved inert ingredients, we are currently reviewing some product formulation information to determine if there are any remaining uses of a few inert ingredients that may be considered polyfluorinated in nature. We think the answer is “no” but expect to have that completed before the end of the month.

If the question is regarding any new (i.e., not currently approved) inert ingredient, if such an inert ingredient were to be submitted for approval, we would conduct a full risk assessment to determine if we could make the requisite FIFRA (and if applicable, FFDCA) safety finding before we could consider such a substance for approval. To date we have not received any such request.

Kerry

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**From:** Lara, Rhina <[Lara.Rhina@epa.gov](mailto:Lara.Rhina@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 10:18 AM  
**To:** Leifer, Kerry <[Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov](mailto:Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS INQUIRY: PFAS in Pesticides, Scientific American  
**Importance:** High

Hi Kerry,

Sorry to ping, but we are hoping to have these responses to OPP IO for review by 12 PM!

Best,  
**Rhina M. Lara** (*she/her/hers*)  
Communications Branch  
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention  
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**From:** Lara, Rhina  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 4:57 PM  
**To:** Leifer, Kerry <[Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov](mailto:Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS INQUIRY: PFAS in Pesticides, Scientific American  
**Importance:** High

Hi Kerry,

Quick follow-up question on this inquiry: Are polyfluorinated chemicals allowed as inert ingredients?

Best,  
**Rhina M. Lara** (*she/her/hers*)  
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Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention  
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**From:** Leifer, Kerry <[Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov](mailto:Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 6, 2022 9:34 AM  
**To:** Dawson, Jeffrey <[Dawson.Jeff@epa.gov](mailto:Dawson.Jeff@epa.gov)>; Lara, Rhina <[Lara.Rhina@epa.gov](mailto:Lara.Rhina@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Nesci, Kimberly <[Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov](mailto:Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov)>; Anderson, Neil <[Anderson.Neil@epa.gov](mailto:Anderson.Neil@epa.gov)>; Nguyen, Thuy <[Nguyen.Thuy@epa.gov](mailto:Nguyen.Thuy@epa.gov)>; Qian, Yaorong <[qian.yaorong@epa.gov](mailto:qian.yaorong@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS INQUIRY: PFAS in Pesticides, Scientific American

Hi Lara,

I don't have any additional comments/input on the response language to the questions posed by Scientific American.

Kerry

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Kerry Leifer, Chief (he/him)  
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**From:** Leifer, Kerry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 4, 2022 9:58 AM  
**To:** Dawson, Jeffrey <[Dawson.Jeff@epa.gov](mailto:Dawson.Jeff@epa.gov)>; Lara, Rhina <[Lara.Rhina@epa.gov](mailto:Lara.Rhina@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Nesci, Kimberly <[Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov](mailto:Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov)>; Anderson, Neil <[Anderson.Neil@epa.gov](mailto:Anderson.Neil@epa.gov)>; Nguyen, Thuy <[Nguyen.Thuy@epa.gov](mailto:Nguyen.Thuy@epa.gov)>; Qian, Yaorong <[qian.yaorong@epa.gov](mailto:qian.yaorong@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS INQUIRY: PFAS in Pesticides, Scientific American

Hi Lara,

Same here—I will also get to it today/tomorrow.

Kerry

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Kerry Leifer, Chief (he/him)  
Chemistry, Inerts and Toxicology Assessment Branch  
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**From:** Dawson, Jeffrey <[Dawson.Jeff@epa.gov](mailto:Dawson.Jeff@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 4, 2022 9:34 AM  
**To:** Lara, Rhina <[Lara.Rhina@epa.gov](mailto:Lara.Rhina@epa.gov)>; Leifer, Kerry <[Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov](mailto:Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Nesci, Kimberly <[Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov](mailto:Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov)>; Anderson, Neil <[Anderson.Neil@epa.gov](mailto:Anderson.Neil@epa.gov)>; Nguyen, Thuy <[Nguyen.Thuy@epa.gov](mailto:Nguyen.Thuy@epa.gov)>; Qian, Yaorong <[qian.yaorong@epa.gov](mailto:qian.yaorong@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS INQUIRY: PFAS in Pesticides, Scientific American

Sorry Lara – will try to look at these today/tomorrow.

Jeffrey L Dawson  
Science Advisor  
U.S. EPA, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW (7101M)  
Washington, DC. 20004  
703-305-7329  
Email: [dawson.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:dawson.jeff@epa.gov)  
Deliveries: 1201 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC 20004

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**From:** Lara, Rhina <[Lara.Rhina@epa.gov](mailto:Lara.Rhina@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 4, 2022 9:31 AM  
**To:** Dawson, Jeffrey <[Dawson.Jeff@epa.gov](mailto:Dawson.Jeff@epa.gov)>; Leifer, Kerry <[Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov](mailto:Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Nesci, Kimberly <[Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov](mailto:Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov)>; Anderson, Neil <[Anderson.Neil@epa.gov](mailto:Anderson.Neil@epa.gov)>; Nguyen, Thuy <[Nguyen.Thuy@epa.gov](mailto:Nguyen.Thuy@epa.gov)>; Qian, Yaorong <[qian.yaorong@epa.gov](mailto:qian.yaorong@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS INQUIRY: PFAS in Pesticides, Scientific American  
**Importance:** High

Hi Jeff and Kerry,

Just bringing this to the top of your inbox. Let me know if you're able to provide any input on the following questions from Scientific American:

 [12-21 PFAS Press Inquiry, Scientific American.docx](#)

Best,

**Rhina M. Lara** (*she/her/hers*)

Communications Branch

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

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**From:** Nguyen, Thuy <[Nguyen.Thuy@epa.gov](mailto:Nguyen.Thuy@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 23, 2021 3:58 PM

**To:** Lara, Rhina <[Lara.Rhina@epa.gov](mailto:Lara.Rhina@epa.gov)>; Qian, Yaorong <[qian.yaorong@epa.gov](mailto:qian.yaorong@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Nesci, Kimberly <[Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov](mailto:Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov)>; Dawson, Jeffrey <[Dawson.Jeff@epa.gov](mailto:Dawson.Jeff@epa.gov)>; Leifer, Kerry <[Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov](mailto:Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov)>; Anderson, Neil <[Anderson.Neil@epa.gov](mailto:Anderson.Neil@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: PRESS INQUIRY: PFAS in Pesticides, Scientific American

Hi Rhina

We looked at the Press Inquiry, and the questions are policy related.

I am including Jeff Dawson and Kerry Leifer here, since they have more experience and expertise in that area than ACB.

Merry Christmas everyone! We have accomplished a lot on this topic since last year.

Thanks

Thuy

*Happy Holidays*

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**From:** Lara, Rhina <[Lara.Rhina@epa.gov](mailto:Lara.Rhina@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 22, 2021 9:54 AM

**To:** Nguyen, Thuy <[Nguyen.Thuy@epa.gov](mailto:Nguyen.Thuy@epa.gov)>; Qian, Yaorong <[qian.yaorong@epa.gov](mailto:qian.yaorong@epa.gov)>


**Cc:** Nesci, Kimberly <[Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov](mailto:Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** PRESS INQUIRY: PFAS in Pesticides, Scientific American

**Importance:** High

Hi Thuy,

We received the press inquiry below regarding PFAS in pesticides. I used some of our existing language to begin answering a few of the questions, but there are a few that I don't have answers for yet. Could you please take a look at the document below and include your input? The reporter hasn't given us a strict deadline, so I don't foresee this getting done before the new year, but I figured we could get started.

 [12-21 PFAS Press Inquiry, Scientific American.docx](#)

Best,

**Rhina M. Lara** (*she/her/hers*)

Communications Branch

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Phone: (202) 815- 5722

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hi Cathy,

Some of my questions are based on EPA's webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/pfas-packaging>

I strongly prefer a live interview to getting emailed answers to questions. The interview can wait until after the New Year, if need be.

Thank you!

Meg Wilcox

1) EPA's "working definition" for PFAS. Could this change? (Such as to what states like California, Massachusetts and Maine are using or considering: PFAS encompasses any chemical with "fully fluorinated carbon.")

2) How confident is EPA that fluorinated pesticides that don't meet its definition of PFAS (such as bifenthrin) won't persist in the environment and potentially harm human health?

3) What does EPA make of this [recent paper](#) about the rise of fluorinated pesticides? Should EPA be more carefully scrutinizing this group of pesticides, regardless of where they meet the EPA definition for PFAS?

4) There are some polyfluorinated chemicals on EPA's inert ingredient list. Are they still allowed? If not, what are they still listed?

5) Does EPA require pesticide manufacturers to test their products for PFAS? If not, why not?

6) Have any manufacturers reported to EPA that they've detected PFAS in their formulations? If so, how has EPA responded to these reports?

7) Environmental advocates say it's a bad idea to spray millions of acres with pesticides containing PFAS at the same time that we're trying to figure out how to destroy and remove them from the environment. How do you respond to that?

8) Are there any plans to fold provisions/policies restricting PFAS in pesticides into the administration's PFAS roadmap?

Environmental Journalist

Member, Society of Environmental Journalists

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On Thu, Dec 9, 2021 at 2:03 PM Milbourn, Cathy <[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov](mailto:Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov)> wrote:

Hello Meg!

I work in EPA's office of public affairs and will be working on your request. Also noting your deadline. Would you please send some additional questions?

Thank you!

Cathy Milbourn

**From:** Meg Wilcox <[megwilcoxcomms@gmail.com](mailto:megwilcoxcomms@gmail.com)>

**Date:** December 9, 2021 at 1:03:22 PM EST

**To:** "Gibson, Neshawne" <[Gibson.Neshawne@epa.gov](mailto:Gibson.Neshawne@epa.gov)>, EPA Press Office <[press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Scientific American interview request

hi Gibson,

I'm an independent environmental journalist writing for Scientific American on the topic of PFAS in pesticides. I'd like to interview the appropriate person from the Council on PFAS at EPA about how/whether pesticides are being addressed in the administration's PFAS Roadmap. I'd also like to interview someone from the Office of Pesticides. I don't see a media contact for that office, so perhaps you can help me.

My deadline is January 14, so this can wait until after the holiday if need be.

All the best,

Meg Wilcox

Environmental Journalist

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